

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication should reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere.—Send for instructions.

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

The future of the Negro race lies in its development and progress along commercial lines. Thrift and industry form the bulwark and safety of this great country and has rendered the American people the foremost in the progress of nations. Recently a colored street railway company was organized at Jacksonville, Fla., and to-day the road is in operation, controlled by colored capitalists and manned by colored conductors and motormen. This is a great stride along commercial lines, and the action of these progressive colored citizens of Florida should be emulated by members of the race elsewhere.

The True Reformers Building in this city is another milestone on the highway of race progress and prosperity. This organization is doing much good for the race, and through the medium of its bank, general stores, and printing house has given profitable employment to members of the race and has challenged the respect and admiration of the commercial world.

The publishing house of the Baptist A. M. E. and A. M. E. Zion churches in various sections of the country are also landmarks of Negro enterprise and ambition. In the many large cities throughout the United States the Negro who is developing himself along business lines does not encounter the hardships and privations of the Negro ward-healer and curbstone orator.

The race needs business tact, business ability, and up-to-date business methods. With money invested in

business enterprises and industrial classes working six days every week in the year, the future of the Negro race is safe.

John H. Clark, of Ohio, recently endorsed by the Democratic State convention for United States Senator, declares that "the lynchings at the South are the outcome of the policy of the Administration in the Philippines." If Clarke intends this as a bait for Negro votes he will be disappointed, since lynchings at the South were in vogue long before the acquisition of the Philippines.

OFFICE HOLDERS BARRED.

We learn that a new Negro organization is about to be launched in the land and will hold its national convention in this city in November. Its line of work is identical with that of the Afro-American Council and the result of its efforts to restore the political rights of the Negro at the South will probably be just as abortive. But this new "Suffrage League" proposes to exclude all office holders from its deliberations. A perusal of its list of officers, both national and local, discloses the names of many disappointed office seekers and chronic croakers, whose only excuse for being in private life at present lies in the fact that President Roosevelt failed to pay any attention whatever to their piteous appeals to be permitted to enter the Federal granary. This galaxy of gold-bugs, silver-bugs, and humbugs essays to control the entire colored vote at the North, East, and West, and predicts dire things should the Republicans in Congress turn a deaf ear to their petitions.

The political condition of the Negro at the South is deplorable, and proper steps should be taken by the leading colored men of the South to bring about a repeal or modification of obnoxious election laws passed by Southern legislatures. Professional Negro politicians of the North and East cannot hope to accomplish much along these lines, especially the miscellaneous crowd of disappointed office seekers composing the new suffrage movement. "No office holder need apply!" This is the climax of humor.

Professor Langley's airship, "Buz-zard," has received voluminous newspaper notices, but has performed no real service. Just like some so-called Negro leaders.

THE PLATE PRINTER.

The initial number of the Plate Printer is out. It is a new candidate for journalistic favor in this city and if it keeps the pace set by the number before us, it has come to stay and to fill a long-felt want. Its editor and publisher is Mr. E. L. Jordan, a well known business man, formerly a high official in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and a popular contributor to the daily and weekly press of the country. The literary merit as well as the typographical and mechanical beauty of The Plate Printer will make it a welcome visitor to the homes of those who are not only members of the craft but those who are not interested in the art of plate printing. The Plate Printer has a mission.

LYNCHINGS BY NEGROES.

It has often been said of our people that we are adepts at copying the white man's vices, but slow in imitating his virtues. It is painful to look about and see confirmations of this unfavorable criticism. We protest vigorously against lynchings, even of our confessed criminals, and against every other form of violence. Yet we hear of a mob of Negroes lynching one of their own race down in Floriad for assaulting a white woman, and of a most threatening demonstration by a crowd of colored excursionists down in Hot Springs, Ark., against the life of a colored speaker who was uttering some unpopular sentiments on the Jim Crow car question. Only the coolness of a few of those present saved the man's life.

The force of our complaint against the white man's inhuman and law-breaking conduct is greatly weakened by occurrences like those above referred to. "He that takes up the sword shall perish by the sword." We must wait upon the processes of the law and set the white man an example of restraint and recognition of the great principle that organized society has taken from the individual or any combination of individuals the right to administer punishment for crime of any character.

Twelve of the rioters who broke into the jail at Danville, Ill., have come to grief. The stern hand of the law has dealt with them justly, and during their term behind the prison walls they will have ample time to reflect over their impetuosity and their wanton disregard of the majesty of the law.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The public schools of Washington City rank among the foremost of the country. The salvation of the race lies in education, and the fine opportunities offered the colored youth of this city by our public schools should be eagerly grasped and improved. Our school corps comprises colored graduates of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Oberlin, Howard, and other leading institutions of learning, and the facilities and curriculum are unexcelled elsewhere.

There is an important duty imposed upon the parents and guardians that must not be overlooked. It is home training and development. The teacher should not be depended upon to develop the child without the cordial assistance of the parent. At best the task of the teacher is an onerous one, and it should be lightened by the hearty co-operation of the parents. The teacher is the embodiment of patience, perseverance, and progress, and their interest in the welfare of their pupils is too often underestimated. The teachers of this city are deserving of encouragement and co-operation, for their interest in the race is unflagging.

Recently Gov. Jeff Davis, of Arkansas, refused to surrender an escaped Indiana prisoner upon the grounds that Gov. W. S. Durbin of that State refuses to surrender ex-Gov. W. L. Taylor to the Kentucky authorities. It is now in order for all escaped Indiana criminals to flee to Arkansas.

The curse of all Negro advancement is jealousy. It is in the church, schools, lodges, politics, and business. It divides up into little hostile clans too small to accomplish anything but devilment. Wherever a Negro enterprise raises its head, wherever a man of superior ability pushes up above his fellows, wherever worth and energy make for themselves a place among us, there the wagging tongue of the jealous hearted traducer begins his insidious objection and spits forth his venom.—Exchange.

What harm will industrial education do the big-headed, brawny, broad-shouldered boy or girl, and how many poor parents had college education?

The race must hang together or, as Benjamin Franklin said, "it will hang separately."

Help The Colored American by paying what you know to be due it.

The Baptist publishing house at Nashville, Tenn., is the foremost of its kind among our people. The printing houses of the A. M. E. and A. M. E. Zion churches should "get a move on" them.

WILLOW TREE ALLEY.

Alley life in Washington, as in other cities, contributes more to crime and suffering than any other source of evil. Willow Tree Alley heads all others as a cesspool of filth and immorality. Its denizens for the most part live in idleness and vagrancy without any visible means of support. The only oasis in that unhallowed spot is Mrs. Brown, who for years has conducted a missionary work there. Many a tot conceived in iniquity would have grown up to increase the number of vagrants in the community but for the rescuing hand of this true missionary. Mrs. Brown has indeed been an angel of mercy to Willow Tree Alley and its vicinity. She has divinely gone into the byways and hedges and compelled them to come in and enter upon a higher life.

But the people who infest Willow Tree and other alleys are not wholly responsible for the degradation they bring upon society; the white people of the District are very largely responsible for Willow Tree alley, Bear's alley, Bloodfield, and other dens of infamy and vice. People who own houses will not rent them even to respectable colored families, hence good, bad and indifferent are forced to take up residences in alleys and in out-of-the-way places. They put their properties into the hands of real estate agents—the big real estate dealers—with instructions not to rent them to colored people, so that apparently rental agents and owners are banded together not to rent homes to respectable colored people except at an enormous rental. These people go to the churches and preach the doctrine of the lowly Nazarene, but force the poor colored people to live in these alleys of which they complain.

Which are more worthy, the white people who force these evil conditions, or the colored people who are the victims of them?

The answer is not far to seek.